(e) The steps taken/being taken to improve the power supply position in the country include augmentation of generating capacity by over 78,760 MW during the 11th Plan, development of a number of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW capacity each, harnessing surplus captive power in the grid, strengthening inter-State and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power, promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures and taking up new hydro-power projects in Bhutan for import of hydro-power into India.

Private power plants in Bihar

1515. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has permitted establishment of any private power plants in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many private power plants have been given approval till financial year 2007-08 all over the country and where those plants are located; and

(d) the details regarding the status and progress of those private power plants which have already got clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to the Electricity Act, 2003, thermal generation has been delicensed and concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required to set up thermal power plants including those in the private sector. In case of hydro projects, concurrence of CEA is required under Section 8(1) of the Electricity Act for setting up of a hydro power generation station estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum notified by the Central Government.

According to information available with the CEA, no proposal for establishing private power plants in Bihar has been received in CEA for its concurrence.

(c) and (d) Seven Hydro Power Plants having installed capacity of 3742 MW, which are presently under construction, have been concurred by CEA in the private sector upto 31st March, 2008. Besides the above, four other hydro power plants having an installed capacity of 369 MW has been accorded clearance by respective State Governments. Further, two Hydro-electric schemes, namely, Singoli Bhatwari (3x33MW) by M/s L&T Uttaranchal Hydro Ltd. and Alaknanda (3x100 MW) by M/s GMR Energy Ltd. (both in Uttarakhand) have been concurred by CEA during 2008-09.

Annual power loss

1516. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual power loss due to pilferage and theft alone; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the energy security obtainable under the 123 Agreement is almost equal to this quantity of power loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Prior to year 2001-02, utilities used to monitor Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses. Concept of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss was introduced in 2001-02. AT&C loss captures not only technical losses, but also captures theft, pilferages and commercial losses due to

poor metering and billing and non-realisation of dues. The draft report on Performance of State Power Utilities for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the AT&C Loss of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was 34.82%, 35.18% and 33.07% respectively of the total energy available for sale.

(b) No such information is available.

Problems in power sector

†1517. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power generation is not in proportion to its consumption, as a result of which the people are facing the problem of low frequency and tripping;

(b) if so, whether Government is formulating any effective plan to increase power generation and whether Government intends to formulate any plan to give boost to solar energy;

(c) whether transmission losses also are one of the reasons for power problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The rate of growth of demand for power is outstripping the growth in its availability, the power generation in the country falls short of the total requirement. Low frequency is experienced in power system whenever the connected load becomes more than the available generation. In order to maintain safety and security of the grid, load shedding is also resorted to in various States /systems from time to time, by disconnection of supply feeders, manually and also through automatic under-frequency operation, commensurate with the availability of power.

(b) In order to meet increasing demand of power, Government has set a Capacity Addition target of 78,700 MW from utility power plants during the 11th Five Year Plan. On the basis of latest assessment, capacity addition of 79,790 MW is feasible during the 11th Plan, out of which 11,322 MW has already been commissioned upto 30th November, 2008 and balance capacity of 68,468 MW is under construction.

The other measures taken/being taken to improve power generation in the country include close monitoring and review of capacity addition of the on-going power generation projects, development of a number of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each under competitive bidding, harnessing surplus captive power into grid, import of coal to bridge the gap between domestic availability of coal and anticipated demand of coal, etc.

A capacity addition of 15,000 MW (14,000 MW grid-interactive and 1,000 MW off-grid /distributed) from renewable energy sources is envisaged during the 11th Plan. Thus, by the end of the 11th Plan grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity is likely to cross 24,000 MW or about 11 per cent of the then likely total installed power generation capacity. A total outlay of Rs. 1,000 crore has been allocated for grid-interactive and distributed renewable power generation during the 11th Plan period.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.